

Please delete the second full paragraph on page 15, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph.

When these data are compared with the data described in references (Natural Medicines 51(3), 190-193 (1997), Chem. Pharm. Bull. 37, 1092 (1989), Pharmacological Magazine (YAKUGAKU ZASSHI) 116(3), 244-250 (1996) and Tetrahedron 8, 64 (1964), the compound 2 was identified as 5,6,7,8,3',4'-hexamethoxyflavone (formula (III): nobletin). The compound 3 was identified as 5,6,7,8,4'-pentamethoxyflavone (formula (IV): tangeretin).

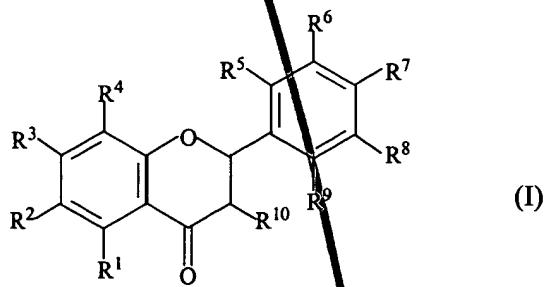
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel the previous versions of claims 1 and 2 and rewrite them as follows. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121, the following are clean copies of the rewritten claims.

Marked-up versions of claims 1 and 2 are attached as separate sheets.

1. (Once Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising:

(a) 0.00005 to 10 w% of polymethoxyflavone represented by formula (I):



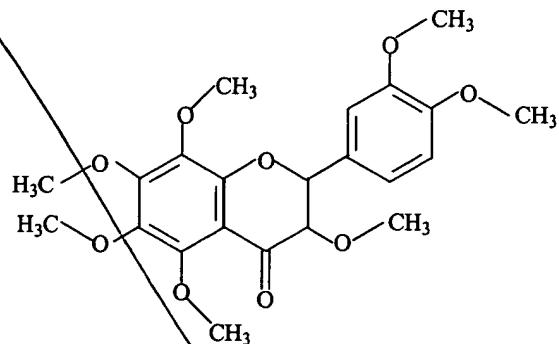
wherein each of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkenyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a sugar residue, and at least four of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ are methoxy groups; and

Sub-Disc Comp

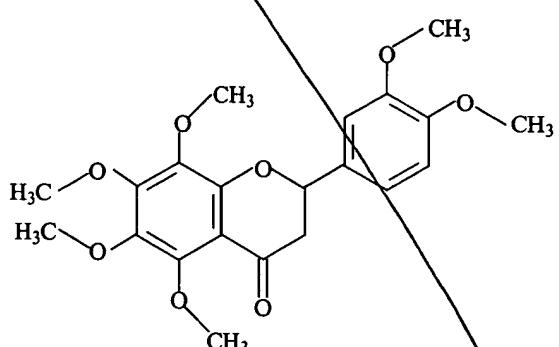
(b) 0.01 to 10 wt% of a whitening agent selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid and its derivatives, hydroquinone and its derivatives, placental extracts, ellagic acid and its derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

Sub 5

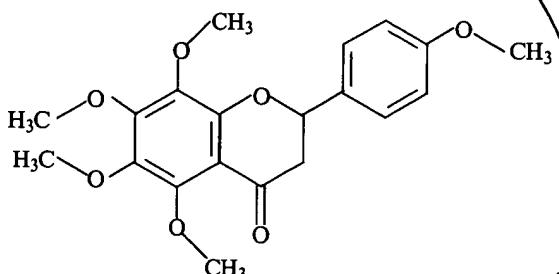
2. (Once Amended) The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the polymethoxyflavone comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of



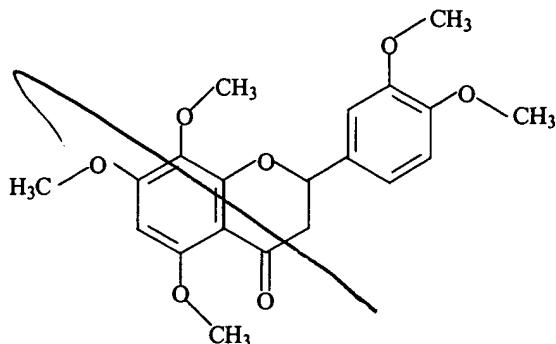
;



;

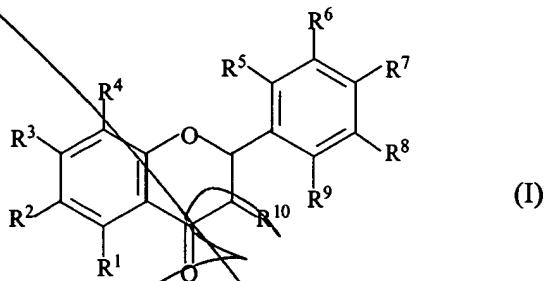


; and



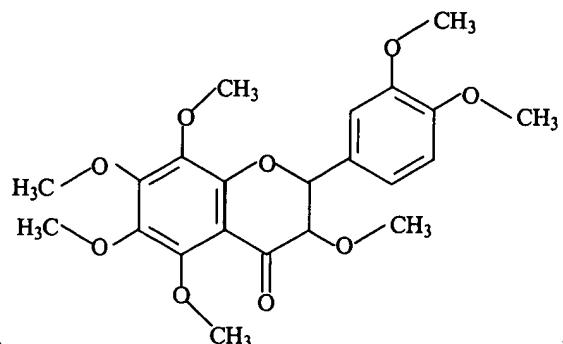
Please add the following new claims 8-14.

--8. A method for whitening human skin comprising applying a cosmetic composition comprising 0.00005 to 10 wt% of a polymethoxyflavone represented by formula (I):



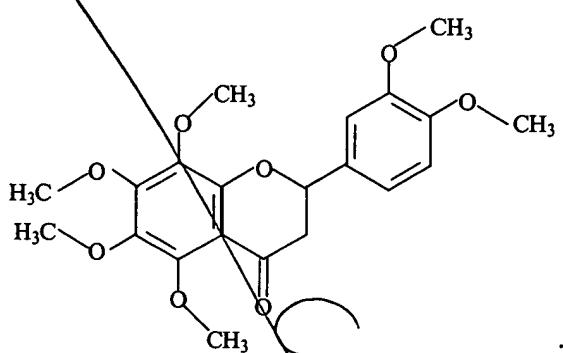
wherein each of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkenyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and a sugar residue, and at least four of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ are methoxy groups

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the polymethoxyflavone comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of

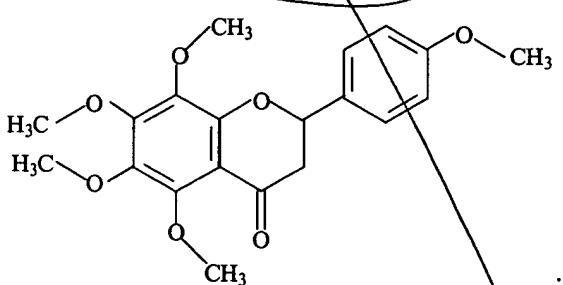


;

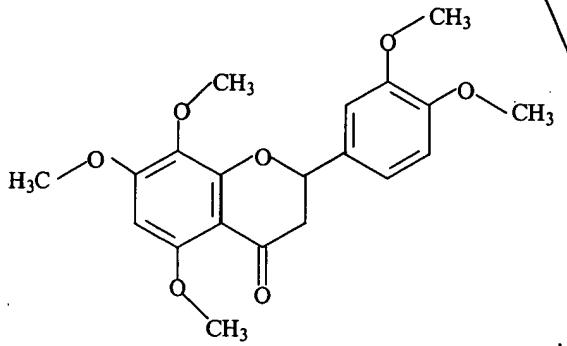
B3
cont.



;



; and



10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the polymethoxyflavone comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 5,6,7,8,3', 4'-hexamethoxyflavone and 5,6,7,8, 4'-pentamethoxyflavone.

11. The method according to claim 8, wherein the cosmetic composition further comprises 0.01 to 10 wt% of a whitening agent selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid and its derivatives, hydroquinone and its derivatives, placental extracts, ellagic acid and its derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

12. The method according to claim 8, wherein the cosmetic composition further provides effects selected from the group consisting of preventing liver spots or freckles caused by sunburn, allowing the skin to retain moisture, vitalizing the skin, and suppressing wrinkles.

13. The method according to claim 8, wherein the polymethoxyflavone is obtained by:

subjecting a peel of a plant of the Genus Citrus of the Family Rutaceae to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene glycol, and 2,3-butyleneglycol to obtain an extract (S1);

dissolving the extract (S1) in hexane and/or chloroform to obtain a dry solid product (S3); and

dissolving the dry solid product (S3) in a solvent, and subjecting it to liquid column chromatography.